

APPENDIX B.

REPORTS

CONCERNING THE NAVIGATION

OF THE

DELAWARE BAY.

Extracts from a report accompanying the report of the Chief Engineer to the Secretary of War, made in the year 1823.

The Delaware Bay is not only obstructed by fixed ice, during a part of the winter, but it is without a harbor near its mouth, in which vessels can secure themselves, either against winds blowing from the north west to the south east, round by the north, or against floating ice. It is frequently the case, that the navigation of the bay is impeded by the ice, as early as the month of December, and it is often open for eight or ten days and sometimes longer, between the twentieth of December and the fifteenth of January, yet it closes again, and remains shut until the twentieth of February, or even the first of March. For two months at least, therefore, between December and March, vessels bound up the bay, will be uncertain as to their passage to the city; and, being without shelter when they arrive at the Capes, will be exposed to the greatest dangers, should they find the passage obstructed. As to the vessels departing from this port, it is true, they can